

***Amendments to the Specification***

1. Applicant respectfully requests Page 9, lines 6-11, of the Specification as filed on March 3, 2004 to be amended as follows:

A message containing this carriergrouping parameter could then be sent to the far end carrier grouping system modem 124 and stored in the transmitting carriergrouping parameter storing means 212 so that the far end grouping system may configure its system according to this carriergroup parameter and transmit ~~messages~~using messages using the carriergrouping parameter.

2. Applicant respectfully Page 9, lines 19-21, of the Specification as filed on March 3, 2004 to be amended as follows:

These carrier groups may have either a fixed size, such as 4 tones or 8 tones, or their size may be determined dynamically in order not to ~~lose~~ lose a specified amount of bit rate.